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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

GOOGLE LLC,  
Plaintiff and Counterdefendant,  
v.  
SONOS, INC.,  
Defendant and Counterclaimant

Case No. 3:20-cv-06754-WHA  
Related Case No. 3:21-cv-07559-WHA

**OPPOSED MOTION REQUESTING  
PATENT SHOWDOWN TRIAL DATE  
TO BE MOVED**

1 Pursuant to Northern District of California Local Rule 6-3, Sonos, Inc. files this  
 2 administrative motion requesting that the July 18, 2022 patent showdown trial date be moved to  
 3 another date convenient for the Court and the parties' retained experts. Google has indicated that  
 4 it opposes this motion.

5 **I. ACTION REQUESTED**

6 An order pursuant to Civil L.R. 6-3 moving the date of the showdown trial set to begin July  
 7 18 to another date convenient to the Court and the retained experts.

8 **II. BACKGROUND & ARGUMENT**

9 Sonos's technical expert for infringement and validity of U.S. Patent No. 10,848,885 ("'885  
 10 patent") has an immovable conflict with the current trial start date of July 18, 2022. Specifically,  
 11 Sonos's technical expert Dr. Kevin Almeroth has an international family trip scheduled for July 20,  
 12 2022 through August 10, 2022. Richter Decl. ¶ 5. This trip has been planned since summer 2020  
 13 and was even rescheduled once due to COVID. *Id.* ¶ 6.

14 In Spring 2021, Sonos retained Dr. Almeroth as a technical expert in this case. *Id.* ¶ 3. Dr.  
 15 Almeroth will provide opinion and testimony regarding Google's infringement of the '885 patent,  
 16 as well as opinion and testimony on the validity of the '885 patent. Sonos engaged Dr. Almeroth  
 17 as an expert when this case was pending in the Texas district court and well before any showdown  
 18 procedures were contemplated. *See* Dkt. 68 (October 8, 2021 Patent Showdown Scheduling Order).

19 Sonos will be substantially prejudiced if it cannot present Dr. Almeroth's opinion and  
 20 testimony at trial. Sonos carefully selected Dr. Almeroth based on his expertise with data networks,  
 21 delivery of multimedia content and other data across data networks, mobile applications, multicast  
 22 communication, and above-all, his extensive knowledge and expertise in the relevant art and his  
 23 familiarity with the Google accused products. Dkt. 209.03, ¶ 1. Dr. Almeroth also has irreplaceable  
 24 experience and knowledge of Sonos's patents. Dr. Almeroth worked on and testified in several  
 25 prior cases involving Sonos patents, including ITC Inv. No. 337-TA-1191 involving Sonos and  
 26 Google and many of the same accused Google products, and *Sonos, Inc. v. D&M Holdings, Inc. et*

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<sup>1</sup>al., D. Del. Case No. 14-cv-01330, and *D&M Holdings, Inc., et al. v. Sonos, Inc.*, D. Del. Case No. 16-cv-00141.<sup>1</sup>

3 Since Spring 2021, Dr. Almeroth has devoted well over 100 hours to this case. Richter  
4 Decl. ¶ 4. Dr. Almeroth prepared a detailed declaration summarizing his opinions on infringement  
5 of the '885 patent. Dkt. 209.03. He tested each of the 12 categories of accused Google devices in  
6 multiple configurations. *See, e.g., id.* ¶¶ 7, 54. He reviewed hundreds of lines of software code  
7 and thousands of pages of documents to form his opinion on infringement. *Id.* ¶¶ 10-12 & Ex. 1.  
8 Dr. Almeroth is also evaluating many possible combinations of references that Google could assert,  
9 as well as thousands of pages of discovery to form his validity opinion. Dr. Almeroth's work is  
10 ongoing, including work in preparing a fulsome expert report on infringement and preparing for a  
11 rebuttal report regarding validity.

The conflict between Dr. Almeroth's travel and the trial date cannot be resolved by taking Dr. Almeroth out of order and fitting his testimony into trial days on July 18 and 19. Dr. Almeroth will testify on Google's infringement of the '885 patent (assuming no summary judgment motion is granted), and will provide responsive testimony to Google's claim that the '885 patent is invalid. Sonos does not believe it is reasonable to expect that the jury can hear preliminary instructions from the Court, opening statements from both parties, Dr. Almeroth's infringement testimony, all of Google's invalidity testimony and evidence, *and* Dr. Almeroth's responsive validity testimony in only two trial days.

20 It would be extremely disruptive and costly for Sonos to retain a new infringement and  
21 validity expert at this stage of the case. Indeed, forcing Sonos to obtain a new expert would likely  
22 necessitate moving the trial date regardless. Sonos estimates that it would take at least six weeks  
23 to search for, retain, and bring another expert up to speed on this case. Richter Decl. ¶ 8. That  
24 would not leave sufficient time for preparation of an expert report, deposition of the new expert,  
25 and rebuttal reports before the currently scheduled trial. Meanwhile, Google would obtain a tactical

<sup>27</sup> Google, likewise, recognizes the importance of an expert familiar with the accused products and  
<sup>28</sup> Sonos patents, as one of its experts in this case, Dr. Schonfeld, worked on and testified in the ITC matter.

1 advantage by depriving Sonos of its preferred expert—an expert who has been working on this case  
 2 for the past year and has invaluable existing knowledge of Sonos's patents and Google's accused  
 3 products.

4 Given the nature of the conflict and the amount of time Dr. Almeroth has devoted to this  
 5 case, Sonos regrettably had no choice but to raise this issue. Sonos reached out to Google about  
 6 Dr. Almeroth's conflict on Friday April 15, just one day after the Court set the trial date. *See* Dkt.  
 7 206 (April 14, 2022 Further Order re Patent Showdown Procedure); Richter Decl., Ex. A at 6 (April  
 8 15, 2022 A. Caridis email to L. Cooper). However, despite multiple attempts to reach agreement,  
 9 Google's only objection has been that in its assessment, Dr. Almeroth's travel is not a "valid  
 10 conflict." *Id.*, at 1 (May 2, 2022 L. Cooper email to A. Caridis). Google has not offered any reason  
 11 why it cannot accommodate moving the showdown trial and has not claimed it would be prejudiced  
 12 in any way by an adjustment to the showdown trial date. Sonos and Google met and conferred  
 13 about the scheduling on May 2, 2022 but were unable to reach agreement. Richter Decl. ¶ 9.

14 Despite its objection to approaching the Court to accommodate Dr. Almeroth's immovable  
 15 conflict, Google disclosed that one of Google's experts, Dr. Schonfeld, has a conflict with the  
 16 showdown trial date as well. Google's expert, Dr. Schonfeld, is scheduled to be in a different trial  
 17 the week of July 18. Google expects Dr. Schonfeld to testify about both infringement and validity  
 18 of the '885 Patent, but believes that Google *could* call Dr. Schonfeld out of turn, perhaps  
 19 interrupting Sonos's case-in-chief, to accommodate Dr. Schonfeld's other trial.

20 Pursuant to Local Rule 6-3(5), Sonos is aware of two previous modifications to the case  
 21 schedule. On March 12, 2022, Sonos and Google stipulated to an extension of Google's deadline  
 22 to answer or move to dismiss Sonos's counterclaims to seven days after the Court's order on  
 23 Google's motion to dismiss in the related case. Dkt. 156. On May 4, 2022, Sonos and Google  
 24 stipulated to an extension of the mediation deadline to accommodate the availability of the parties'  
 25 and the parties' preferred mediator. Dkt. 245.

26 To facilitate rescheduling the trial, Sonos notes that its damages expert, Jim Malackowski,  
 27 has a conflict August 15-26 and its infringement and validity expert for U.S. Patent No. 9,967,615,  
 28 Dr. Doug Schmidt, has a conflict August 23-26. Richter Decl. ¶ 10.

1 Sonos's requested modification of the showdown trial would not affect the scheduling of  
2 summary judgment or the full trial. Sonos therefore believes rescheduling the showdown trial  
3 would have a limited effect on the remainder of the case.

4 **III. CONCLUSION**

5 Sonos respectfully requests that the Court reset the showdown trial date.

6  
7 Dated: May 5, 2022

By: /s/ Cole Richter

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